

Professor McCarthy moves against Acadia

by Robert Barnes

In an almost unprecedented move Professor Robert McCarthy, a former member of the Music faculty at Acadia University, has commenced legal proceedings against that institution.

Professor McCarthy, who was dismissed from his teaching position at Acadia in May of this year, is suing the University for breach of his "special" employment contract. The action will likely commence in the Nova Scotia Supreme Court sometime within the next few months; it is scheduled to reach the discovery stage (a preliminary evidentiary enquiry) this month at which time both parties will determine if the evidence warrants further action.

Despite the vehement protests of students and faculty over the second McCarthy firing (which culminated this Spring in a hunger strike) and despite the terms of an employment contract that guaranteed him a "thorough and appropriate" reassessment for re-appointment in 1975-76, the University without giving reasons, has fired Professor McCarthy in a manner reminiscent of his dismissal in 1974.

In making this dismissal Dr. Beveridge, the Acadia President, has apparently relied upon the undisclosed report of the recently appointed Dean of the School of Music -- Veron Ellis. The Ellis

Report, which recommended that Professor McCarthy not be rehired, will come under close scrutiny during any legal proceedings that may arise; it must, of course, constitute a "thorough and appropriate" reassessment containing substantive grounds for dismissal. Anything less is likely to place the University in breach of its agreement with Professor McCarthy and the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), who have on several occasions intervened on his behalf.

Speculation on the Wolfville campus among informed observers is that the Ellis Report lacks substance and will not stand-up when compared to the findings of the four independent hearing committees that have already found the two dismissals to be unwarranted. The latest committee, which reported in April, was made up of two St. Mary's University faculty members and Dr. Robert Hanrahan of the Dalhousie University Department of Commerce. Their conclusion states:

...the substance of the reason for non-renewal must be brought into question. The committee concludes that the reasons given for the non-renewal of Professor McCarthy's contract are neither substantial nor substantiated by specific evidence.

Dr. James Stevens, the Chairman of the CAUT Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee, contacted President Beveridge in July and suggested that both sides let the matter go to binding arbitration. But Dr. Beveridge, who has already lost four rounds of non-binding arbitration, refused to accept the CAUT proposal. As a result Professor McCarthy's case is being funded by the CAUT who feel that his grievance is valid and that the Nova Scotia Supreme Court will provide a final remedy in his favour.

The dispute is now well into its second year but anti-Administration sentiment would still appear to be quite strong among students and faculty in Wolfville. The Students' Representative Council and the Faculty Association have both passed votes of non-confidence in President Beveridge; despite the overwhelming condemnation of Administration tactics by the University community Dr. Beveridge refuses to budge on the issue. Instead he refers to the opposition position in the following terms: "...I am concerned that decisions on staffing might be based on what might be termed popular appeal to students, and popularity amongst other members of the University community."

Professor McCarthy has responded in the following terms:

One thing that is really important as our institutions get bigger and more complex is a mistake mechanism. Our institutions have somehow developed the notion of infallibility. This type of impersonal, managerial machinery is no good. There has to be room for the institution to make a mistake....It would have made Acadia look very good if they were capable of displaying... maturity and flexibility.

In a matter apparently related to

the McCarthy dispute Dr. K.D.C. Haley, former Head of the Acadia Mathematics Department, has expressed his intention to commence a legal action against President J.M.R. Beveridge for defamation. Dr. Haley, who was recently removed from his position as the Department Chairman of Mathematics, has taken issue with certain allegedly defamatory remarks made in a Report (written by Dr. A.J. Coleman of Queen's University) commissioned and distributed by Dr. Beveridge; the Report was apparently used as the basis for Dr. Haley's demotion from the Chairmanship of his Department.

Dr. Haley, who in his role as a member of the Acadia Faculty Association Executive has actively supported Professor McCarthy, was dismissed shortly after the removal of Professor McCarthy from the faculty of the School of Music. It is the feeling among many students at Acadia that Dr. Haley's demotion was directly related to the active support he has given Professor McCarthy over the past two years. The Report which contains the allegedly libelous remarks, in fact, does make passing reference to Dr. Haley's involvement in campus issues over the past few years. Despite the difficulty of substantiating many of the remarks in the Report and despite the fact that many of those remarks were based upon hearsay evidence Dr. Beveridge distributed copies to all of the faculty members in the Mathematics Department. It is the feeling of Dr. Haley, and of his solicitor, that such a distribution constitutes defamation and is not protected by the standard defence of "privileged communication". The Canadian Association of University Teachers is presently studying the merits of Dr. Haley's case and is expected to issue a statement in the near future.

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New front in medicine

by D. Moulton

Currently on the upswing in Canada are family medicine centers containing those programs necessary to train residents wishing to become certified family practitioners. And Dalhousie is helping lead the way! In 1969 the Family Medicine Center was opened on University Ave. Due to much needed expansion of facilities, however, the Center has moved to Fenwick Towers. The new building was unofficially opened on 26 June/75. The official opening is not until 9 Oct./75.

The new edifice contains five medical/patient areas, seminar and conference rooms, individual offices, a research area, and a large waiting room with reception area. The patient areas contain two way mirrors thus enabling a doctor to comfortably assess the resident as he carries on the examination of a patient. (Nothing is done without the patients knowledge and consent). Some of these rooms also contain recorders and cameras with which the examination can be reviewed thus helping the resident locate and understand his mistakes and/or oversights. (Resident doctors have, by the way, successfully completed Med School at Dal).

Family medicine is the relatively new concept of one doctor for one family. Now I know that everybody has a family doctor- so what's so new about it? Two things really: First of all not every family has one doctor to which they consistently go. Physicians are switched as often as problems arise. If a family maintains a relationship with one

doctor over a long period of time the doctor (or in this case medical team) is better able to assess the current ailment being knowledgeable about past illnesses as well as the personality of the patient. Secondly -and here's the uniqueness embodied in the family medicine concept- those who are a patient of the Center are not treated by one practitioner, as such, but a medical team. This team consists of one doctor, one resident doctor, one nurse, and a receptionist. Included in this team may also be a first or second year med student. Presently there are 6 full time doctors (from the Dal faculty), 5 full time nurses, and a number of private practitioners who devote one or two half days a week at the Center. Plus these are a public health nurse, a social worker, and a psychiatrist who comes in once a week. To date the staff can comfortably insure better than adequate care for 7500 patients. The Center operates 8:30-5:00 and has a 24 hour emergency service.

The purpose of the Center is not solely to offer its services to the public it also serves as a teaching unit in conjunction with the rest of Dal Med School. The objective of the Center as a medical training unit is two-fold: 1. to develop a good clinician through clinical work and 2. through socio-psychological aspects of medicine. All Med students at Dal spend two weeks annually at the Center and those who wish to become certified family physicians must not only pass the

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